

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY

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INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214604

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FG, XL, BH, PORG , GY

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS CONVERSATION WITH
COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL SONNY RAMPHAL

1. COMMONWEALTH SEC GEN SONNY RAMPHAL JOINED ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ROGERS FOR LUNCH SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, IMMEDIATELY
AFTER MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY IN NEW YORK. THE
CONVERSATION COVERED A RANGE OF ISSUES.

2. RAMPHAL FEELS THE MCINTYRE REPORT HAS DEALT WITH THE
DILEMMA OF NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS RESPONSIBLY AND REALISTICALLY
AND DESERVES CAREFUL ANALYSIS. RAMPHAL WAS DIS-
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APPOINTED THAT JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER MANLEY HAD NOT

ATTENDED THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN TO DEFEND THE MCINTYRE REPORT. ROGERS TOLD RAMPHAL THAT MANLEY HAD TOLD HIM HE WAS NOT GOING TO NEW YORK BECAUSE OF THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION IN JAMAICA. RAMPHAL POOH-POOHED THAT EXCUSE, ASSERTING THAT THE REAL REASON FOR MANLEY'S ABSENCE WAS HIS FEAR OF EMBARRASSMENT. SOME OF THE MORE RADICAL NATIONS OF THE THIRD WORLD DID NOT LIKE THE MCINTYRE REPORT BECAUSE THEY FELT IT CONCEDED TOO MANY OF THE GROUP OF 77'S POSITIONS TOWARD THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS. ACCORDING TO RAMPHAL, MANLEY PREFERRED NOT TO RISK THE 77'S DISPLEASURE.

3. RAMPHAL CONFIDED THAT HE KNEW HOW THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MUST FEEL ABOUT THE CURRENT POLITICAL TRENDS IN GUYANA, BUT HE URGED PATIENCE WITH PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM. HE DESCRIBED BURNHAM AS A CONSUMMATE POLITICIAN AND ONE MUCH AFFECTED BY PERSONALITIES. THAT FACT SHOULD GIVE CAUSE FOR HOPE IN THE FUTURE. HE THOUGHT BURNHAM COULD JUST AS EASILY SWING BACK. BURNHAM LACKED A FIRM IDEOLOGY. UNFORTUNATELY THE PRIME MINISTER HAD COME UNDER THE PERSONAL INFLUENCE OF MORE RADICAL POLITICAL FIGURES RECENTLY. THE KEY TO BURNHAM WAS WARM PERSONAL CONTACT. BURNHAM'S FAVORITE US PRESIDENT WAS LYNDON JOHNSON BECAUSE THEY HAD THE SAME HUMAN QUALITIES. RAMPHAL CAUTIONED THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT SEND ILL-PREPARED, NON-PROFESSIONAL AMBASSADORS TO GUYANA AS WE HAD IN THE PAST. RAMPHAL PRAISED AMBASSADOR KREBS AND SAID HE HOPED FUTURE AMBASSADORS TO GUYANA WOULD BE AS GOOD.

4. RAMPHAL CRITICIZED TRINIDAD-TOBAGO PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS FOR HAVING A "MANIC" ATTITUDE TOWARD VENEZUELA. WILLIAMS HAD EARLIER SABOTAGED RAMPHAL'S ATTEMPTS TO ORGANIZE A MEETING OF THE LITTORAL COUNTRIES OF THE CARIBBEAN BECAUSE OF HIS FEAR OF VENEZUELAN DOMINATION.

5. WITH REGARD TO THE BELIZE QUESTION, RAMPHAL EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD BEEN KEENLY INTERESTED FOR SOME TIME. HE URGED PRICE TO SEEK AN ACCOMMODATION WITH GUATEMALA
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ON THE BASIS OF A BORDER SETTLEMENT RATHER THAN A TERRITORIAL CESSION. BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC BELIZEAN POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. HE WAS APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE CURRENT STALEMATE ON THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN BELIZE. PRICE WAS IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION. MEXICO COULD PLAY A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON GUATEMALA IF SHE SO CHOOSES. RAMPHAL WAS ENIGMATIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A ROLE FOR THE UNITED STATES IN

SOLVING THE BELIZE QUESTION.

6. HE BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF FRENCH GUIANA. HE SAID THAT BOUTEFLLIKA HAD MENTIONED HIS DIS- PLEASURE WITH THE FRENCH ATTITUDE TOWARD CAYENNE. ACCORDING TO BURNHAM, THE FRENCH ARE NOW ENCOURAGING FRENCH SETTLERS TO GO TO CAYENNE. BOUTEFLLIKA WAS VERY UNHAPPY WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT AND THOUGHT THAT IT HAD FOREBODING IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF MARTINIQUE AS WELL.

7. HE REITERATED THE WARNING HE HAD GIVEN THE SECRE- TARY THAT THE SOVIETS AND CHINESE WERE SEEKING AN

EXPANDED ROLE IN THE NON-ALIGNED ORGANIZATION AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES. HE STOPPED SHORT OF ADVOCATING A UNITED STATES ROLE IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT BUT NEITHER DID HE RULE IT OUT.

8. COMMENT: RAMPHAL WAS, AS USUAL, CHARMING AND CORDIAL. HIS COMMENTS REGARDING THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN GUYANA WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING. ALTHOUGH HE COUNSELED PATIENCE, THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION EMERGED THAT HE WAS GLAD NOT TO BE IN GEORGETOWN JUST NOW.

9. OBVIOUSLY KEEN ON THE MCINTYRE REPORT AS A CONTRIBUTION BY THE COMMONWEALTH TO THE THIRD WORLD STATEMENT OF CLAIM, RAMPHAL SEEMED DISAPPOINTED BY ITS RECEPTION AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, BOTH IN THE GROUP OF 77 AND BY THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS, AND A BIT EMBARRASSED THAT IT FELL TO HIM TO PEDDLE IT. IN ALL EVENTS, HE IS VERY MUCH IN THE CAMP OF THE MODERATES. THOUGH HE ADVOCATES THE NEW INTER- ANTIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER PERSUASIVELY, AS A LONG TERM PROP- CONFIDENTIAL

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OSITION, HE WOULD GLADLY SETTLE FOR THE MOMENT FOR OUR PROPOSALS. KISSINGER

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